GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2467
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2001
INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SCHEME
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have made any assessment of the ICDS scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the shortcomings noticed; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the said scheme effectively?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) was entrusted to carry out a National Evaluation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme in about sixty thousand Anganwadi Centres. The Report has been received in 2001.

The Report demonstrates that ICDS Programme has made a definite impact on Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) Antenatal Care. More than sixty seven percent of Anganwadi Centres were providing regular supplementary nutrition and seventy five percent of children had received immunization. The Report has also indicated casual disruption in provision of supplementary nutrition in Anganwadi Centres, weak implementation of the Adolescent Girls' Scheme and weak monitoring.

(c) Some of the major initiatives taken by the Department to increase the effectiveness of the programme include:

(i) The freeze on expansion imposed in 1997 has been lifted in 2000. Sanction for 5171 ICDS blocks upto Ninth Five Year Plan has now been granted.

(ii) The monitoring mechanism has been improved with consolidated State reports providing more focused information.

(iii) The financial norms under the Scheme have been revised upward to strengthen the scheme. The State Governments have been impressed upon to provide adequate budgetary provision for supplementary nutrition. The nutrition component of Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana has also been included to increase nutritional coverage of supplementary feeding.

(iv) The procurement of medicine kits have been decentralized.

(v) Education kit has been introduced.

(vi) A decentralized training programme for ICDS functionaries named UDISHA has been launched.